



*March 2010*

As you are probably aware, we shall be losing Mrs Lenton at the end of this school year and our thanks go to her for all past support. Perhaps it would be appropriate to offer her a few words of warning, in case she is looking forward to a relaxing and peaceful lifestyle. It would seem, from a straw poll amongst some Old Pals who have already retired that they have never been busier and many even wonder how they found time to work! The problem appears to be that from the age of five, most of us followed a fairly strict timetable. We had to attend school, then there was work or/and family commitments until suddenly the timetable is swept away and life is a blank tapestry. How quickly that gets filled with a rare and unlikely mix of 'colours'! All those things one intended to do can now be attacked with gusto in addition to all the regular commitments. The world is once again your oyster and anything is possible.

My thanks go to Valerie Storie and Shelagh Whitehouse for their patience and support and also to everyone who sent in news. Whatever the length of your news item and however it arrived, your contributions are very much appreciated. We hope everyone will have a happy and memorable day.

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

This is an historic year in the history of the schools, Mrs Margaret Lenton, is retiring at the end of this academic year and a new Principal will take over in September. Margaret has been our President since her appointment in 1988, and has been a good friend to the Old Paludians Association throughout. She has always welcomed us into school for our Annual Reunion and has told us about the latest developments affecting the School at our AGMs. We have observed that under her guidance the School has been progressive, pioneering modern ideas for education, from which all students have benefited. All Old Paludians should feel proud to be associated with the current Slough Grammar School.

Even though Margaret is retiring from Slough Grammar School she will continue to be industrious with her work as a JP on the East Berkshire Bench and with studies for higher qualifications. We will keep in touch, and look forward to meetings in the years ahead. Margaret, we wish you a long and happy retirement.

You will read elsewhere in this publication details of a Garden Party to be held at school on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July to celebrate Margaret's headship at Slough Grammar School and to mark her retirement. I hope that members of the Association will support this event.

We look forward to welcoming our new President to the reunion on Saturday 19th March 2011.

I am grateful to both Shelagh Rothero and Shelagh Whitehouse for their special contributions this year. Shelagh Rothero has once again edited the Annual Newsletter and Shelagh Whitehouse has received and processed the replies for the reunion. Both jobs take up a lot of time for a couple of months each year and we are so fortunate in having committee members who are willing to do this for us. My thanks also go to the rest of the committee and to all members for their continued interest and support.

With best wishes to you all.

Jean Tyler (Chairman)

## **A NOTE FROM MARGARET LENTON**

This is the last Reunion that I will attend as your President and as Principal of Slough Grammar School. I do reflect that the first Reunion I attended had 30 people and now we have outgrown the School Canteen, having to meet in the School Hall and that the Chairman asks from which part of the world participants come. In addition, I have valued members' friendship, your continuing interest in the School and very often going out and about, I am greeted and my husband says without hesitation 'another Old Pal'.

I took up my post on the 1<sup>st</sup> September in 1988. I nearly did not come to interview as the previous Head's Secretary told me not to bother, when I rang up to ask for directions, as I was very unlikely to be appointed. Much has changed during that time.

When I was appointed, the school was known as Upton Grammar School and it did not recover its original name until 1993 when we went Grant Maintained. (Berkshire objected to the change of name, which caused some hilarity in the Department for Education as the Royal County claimed everyone knew where Upton was but people would not know Slough.) Local Management of Schools came in and the budget I was responsible for rose from a few thousands to now around £7,000,000. The school gained specialist statuses so that now Slough Grammar is a Language College, Science College, and Training School, is Leading Edge, is an Employment Based Initial Teacher Trainer and is a hub for Gifted and Talented pupils. Numbers have grown from 458 pupils to the current size of about 1150.

We have been subject to inspections. When Ofsted first came in it was nerve wracking. The registered inspector could not use a computer and wrote to us in a spidery script which no one could read. We then found that we had been confused with another school as they kept talking about our special units and our low ability children. I was telephoned by Professor Sutherland who asked if we wanted to delay the Inspection. We preferred to go ahead. Over the years we have improved our position so that in the last two Ofsteds we have been found to be outstanding and the same has been found to be true of our teacher training.

Over the years I have been able to travel, as the school took part in British Council and European Union Comenius sponsored projects. I have been to Norway, France, the Czech Republic, Germany and Italy (where I shall never forget being trapped at Catania Airport when Alitalia went on strike. There was the sudden realisation of who was oldest there, who was the most responsible, who spoke virtually no Italian and who was responsible for very good looking sixth form girls. Thanks to meeting a member of the Airport staff whose sister was the Mayor of Catania's secretary we found a 5\* hotel, all had dinner together and we flew home the following day).

Two visits which changed my life were an English Speaking Union Scholarship to the US in 1998 and I was part of a delegation to China in 2000. In the former case, I went to Fairhaven, New Jersey; Princeton; Delaware and Greensborough. I went to the Eton of the States Lawrenceville and there the Principal had written a Learning and Teaching Handbook and I thought that this was what we needed to do as well. In the case of China, I was added to a delegation from Liverpool and saw at first hand China's economic miracle in Shanghai. As a result we had an experienced teacher from China as a language assistant and we began the teaching of Mandarin. We have received a great many visitors. These have included Home Secretaries Michael Howard and Lord Kenneth Baker, who returned to lead a poetry master class. In these cases we had to deal with the security services and I remember being told to carry on normally while a sniffer dog was snuffling around my ankles. We have had many guests from overseas including a delegation from Uzbekistan. We could tell who was important by the number of gold teeth. Our Prizes and Merit awards have been presented by the 'great and the good.' The all time highlight,

however, was the Duke of Edinburgh. Contrary to opinion he was a joy to host. He agreed to every thing we asked and every child was able to see him. In addition, he met the Old Pals. When I ask children about what they most remember about their time in the school they allude to this although the number who were here at the time is diminishing.

Those who know me well know that I like to help organise events. We have developed links with Windsor Castle, thanks to Chapter Clerks who feel they have a mission to open up St George's Chapel and the current Dean, Sir David Conner. We celebrated the Millennium, the Queen's Jubilee, the Anniversary of Trafalgar and Britishness. We worked with schools across Slough and the Royal Borough and to see the looks of wonder in children's faces and to see them perform so wonderfully will live in my memory. We performed 'Zadoc the Priest' and had two new anthems performed which Gillian Dibden conducted. We also celebrated the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Milton's birth at Horton. 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 was a full civic event with the Mayor of Windsor and Maidenhead present and the address was given by the Bishop of Buckingham. Armando Iannucci and the BBC came to the school as a result and our pupils and staff were featured on his programme about Milton.

Over the years I have seen children come and go. The days in August when young people receive their A Level and GCSE results are some of the best to remember; seeing the looks of delight when students have achieved their goals. I have worked with Head Boys and Head Girls, all different but overwhelmingly contributing so much to their school. It is such a pleasure that the current Head Boy Imran and Head Girl Bethany have been offered Oxford and Cambridge places respectively.

I am proud of the staff I lead and of the teachers who have moved on to promotion. We have been a training ground for Heads and Deputies. I believe that we have an obligation to train the next generation of teachers. Certainly I am humbled by the quality of teaching achieved by my colleagues and my gift to the future is that so many have the expertise to go much further in my profession.

We have been able to develop the school and build. The Science Laboratories have been refurbished as has the Technology area including Food Technology and the building is regularly repainted. If I have a regret, it is that since 1998 we have had very little spent on us. It does not pay to be successful, produce good results and offer the opportunities in Languages, Mathematics and the Sciences, skills which the country so vitally needs. We did have a scheme which would have raised money from the sale of land on the frontage and built a new sports hall, canteen and given Slough Grammar additional classrooms. We went to planning at Slough Borough Council and despite support from the planners and promises of support from the Councillors we lost the vote by 5 to 4. The school does need new facilities and I agonise over how we are going to obtain them.

I reflect also that I am typing this Article on a laptop and I have access to the internet. Students these days have access to such marvellous technology. The only problem is that anything you buy becomes almost immediately obsolete. When I came, the previous head's secretary had ordered brand new typewriters and I felt I was going back in time. It took until March 1989 for computers to come into the school office; the phone system did not ring and you had physically to look at it to see if someone was calling and the bell system was gratefully accepted by a museum when it was replaced.

During my time we have celebrated the School's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I hope I shall be invited to the 100<sup>th</sup> which comes in a year when London hosts the Olympics and the nation celebrates the Queen's 60 years on the throne. I hope that I am leaving a worthwhile legacy. A long time ago I met someone who questioned my appointment (mainly because I was a female)

and I hope I have proved him wrong. May I wish you well for the future and perhaps become an honorary member of the Old Pals.

With best wishes to you all.

Margaret Lenton

**From Gwen Gale (Knight, 1941-47)**

I joined the Old Paludians committee in the same year as Mrs Lenton was appointed at the school. Her association with us has been mutually beneficial and it is very pleasing that our links with the school have grown over the years. As our membership has increased we have been able to help with extra donations and to take part in various events. Speaking personally, I have attended many of these enjoyable occasions and was always made very welcome. Mrs Lenton will be greatly missed by the Old Paludians and I should like to thank her for all her support over the years. We are saying farewell to a good friend and it is hoped that she will have happiness and success in whatever she chooses to do in the future.

**THE ARCHIVES** Much work has been done on the archive this year and I am grateful to those members of the committee who joined in the major task of sorting, cleaning, labelling and listing the items stored in the school. We also visited Slough Museum to view the archive material relating to the schools and how it is stored. Ultimately we hope to set up a database detailing our archive but there is still much to do before this is achieved

**CENTENARY BOOK** Members will perhaps remember that it was agreed to investigate the possibility of publishing a book about the Old Paludians Association. This would consist mainly of photographs to commemorate the centenary, in 2012, of our school. A sub- committee has been formed and photos from our archive reviewed. It seems that there is sufficient material to present a coherent history, but it was felt that a wider selection of images, particularly for Slough High School from the years 1970-82 would be helpful. We should therefore be grateful if anyone could help by loaning or donating photographs - if you are able to help please contact any member of the committee

**David Rogers** (Archivist).

<b>THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/09</b>	
<b>Brought forward from 2008</b>	<b>£3,823.07</b>
Income for year ending 31/12/09	£3,728.65
Expense for year ending 31/12/09	£3,833.52
Loss for year 2009	£ 104.87
<b>Carried Forward to 2010</b>	<b>£3,718.20</b>

Our thanks to **George Lucas** (1938-44) for auditing these accounts.

### **\*\*STAFF NEWS\*\***

**Miss Booth** (1942-72) aged 97, has moved into a care home near Bristol to be closer to her niece.

**Rev Ivy Halden** (1941-74) is still living in Windsor, but has damaged her hip by falling over a stool. She welcomes visitors by appointment.

**Miss Anne Harris** (1961-69) is unable to attend and sends her apologies.

**Mrs J Sumner** (1961-80) is unable to come but sends best wishes to all who remember her.

**Marjorie Gibbs** (Frost, 1974-80) Thank you for the invitation to the Annual Reunion. I'm afraid that I shall not be able to attend owing to a previous engagement, but I hope the day goes well.

**Mrs Gill Dibden** (1986-88) was awarded an MBE in the 2009 honours list for the Queen's Birthday. It was given for her commitment and success as a conductor of music over many years, and in particular for her work with the Taplow Youth Choir which was formed in 2006 and was the best youth choir in the country in last year's BBC competition. We offer our sincere congratulations for all this musical success.

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM \*\***

**Stewart Binstead** (SGS 1945-77) died in Penarth, November 2009. He taught biology and was deputy headmaster before he retired in 1977. Always a very keen cyclist, in his twenties he would cycle from Cardiff to London, carrying a change of clothes and his meals, in order to attend the Promenade Concerts. He also toured England, Scotland, Wales and Germany on bicycle before 1939. His hobbies were classical music, gardening, photography and travelling - and for many years he did the planning for the week of travel excursions at Slough Grammar School. After he and Phyllis retired they moved to Frome and in addition to their many trips to Europe also took great delight in exploring the local countryside, both by themselves, with their extended family, and more latterly, with Probus. They also visited their daughter **Elisabeth** (1955-62) and her family in Australia a number of times. Phyllis became largely house-bound after breaking her hip in a fall in 2002 which meant an enormous change in their daily lives, but he was unstinting in his care and attention to her needs. After her death in 2008 he moved to Penarth to be closer to relatives in Cardiff. He was in good health until the last week of his life and was able to enjoy several trips to local coffee shops with his daughter and her husband when they visited in October.

*Editor's Note: Sometimes we are unaware of the passing of members and are informed too late for inclusion in the Newsletter for that particular year. Even if a considerable time has elapsed we like to include notes about those who have died because their former colleagues, school friends and contemporaries like to recall happier times. The gift of a book is given to the School Library in remembrance: each book has a special nameplate recalling names and years at the School and in this way their presence lives on in a practical way. Where possible the Librarian tries to match the interests of the member with the subject matter of the book.*

### **\*\*1920s\*\***

**Connie Edwards** (1920-26) celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday last year. She continues to attend Reunions and we marked her special birthday with a gift of flowers at the Reunion last year.

**\*\*1930s\*\***

**Marjorie Cruse** (1931-35) By the time of the Old Pals Reunion I shall be 90 and although the "spirit is willing the flesh is weak" I don't go far from home any more. Anyway I don't suppose there are many of my old contemporaries left now! I hope the event goes well.

**Mrs Hilda Halls** (Milcoy, 1932-37) I am sorry that I am unable to come to the reunion, but 250 miles each way is too far for me to travel. However I am still interested to hear news of Old Paludians, especially those with whom I was at school in the 1930s, though there are now not many of us left. I pass on good wishes to anyone who may remember me.

**Beryl Wheatley** (Davies, 1933-39) wrote: I am very sorry, but old age and ill-health prevents me making the journey. My close friend **Muriel Chant** (Ball, 1933-39) and I joined S.S.S. in September 1933. We entered every form together, until we left in 1939, just as WWII was declared. Since then, we have kept in touch and have both discussed how we can reach various reunions! Now, we are well into our eighties, it becomes more difficult, as she lives in Wales. However, we have both got our sights set on the 2012 reunion and we hope and pray that we can manage it somehow. I think it is so amazing, that after all these years, the spirit of the school, which has obviously had such an overpowering effect on all its past pupils, manifests itself, from all corners of the globe. It is wonderful reading the Newsletter and catching up with everyone. In 1936 Muriel and myself were kept down for a year, as we were both so young. We went into a form called "3 Remove", which was mixed. I can remember many of the names of the children in that class and wondered if there is anyone left, who remembers us? Stella Kirkham, Mollie Bromage, Donna Norris, Marjorie Mayo, but sorry it is surnames only for the boys: Peters, Giles, Young, Porter, Izzard. *Please let us know if you can help - Ed*

**Jean Bostock** (Burnett, 1936-41) Relentlessly advancing years, plus transport difficulty, make it impossible for me to attend Reunions unfortunately. My best wishes for a successful and happy day on 20<sup>th</sup> March - my thoughts will be with you.

**Ken Bryant** (1936-41) and **Kath Bryant** (Prior, 1937-42) celebrated their diamond wedding last year. Ken has been a member of the OPA committee for about 20 years, and always helped in the school as volunteer during Industry Week. *Please accept our warmest congratulations for this happy event. Ken and Kath have been unwell this year - our very best wishes to you both and we hope you will soon feel better - Ed*

**Betty Hull** (Iris Burnett, 1937-42) I shall not be coming to the reunion this year (again) - my 84<sup>th</sup> birthday is looming and 'anno dominitis' is taking its toll. My husband, Tony, died last year so I am going 'solo'. Had a good holiday in Dawlish with my sister Jean recently, with many happy reminiscences about our schooldays in Slough. I would be glad to hear (by letter or phone) from friends from the '30s. *Congratulations and Happy Birthday in advance - may it be a good one - Ed*

**Frank Robotham** (1937-42) - a brief note to say that I will not be attending the reunion this year but I wish you all a happy and rewarding occasion. Early memories were jolted before last Christmas when I attended the funeral of **Shirley May**, widow of the late **John May**. I took it upon myself to represent the defunct Old Pals Hockey Club because Shirley was a generous hostess to many of us following matches on numerous occasions in the 50s and early 60s. Please pass on my best wishes to those who may remember me and I look forward to receiving the newsletter in due course.

**Audrey Fenn** (Eustance 1938-41) has asked to be remembered to those who knew her. She is now living in a care home and no longer able to travel to Slough for reunions. The care home is in Bristol and anyone who wants to get in touch can do so via Jean Tyler.

**Betty Absolon** (Chapman, 1939-45) I regret I am no longer able to travel to attend OPA meetings but would like to thank all those who continue to run the Association & Mrs Lenton for her support since 1988. Many thanks.

**Pamela Green** (Dear, 1939-45) I am sorry I am unable to attend the Reunion on 20th March but wish you all a happy day and I send greetings to all.

**Norman (Monty) Reeves** (1939-44) Unfortunately, I shall not be able to attend this year. Best wishes for a successful meeting. PS My wife named one of the dogs Monty, so we both come running!

#### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Nansi Creer**, (Jones, 1930s) Mrs Sally Blundell wrote - Sadly I have to inform you that my mother died in November 2009. I know how much she enjoyed her time at the school and in earlier years attending the school reunions. She caused much amusement by telling us about the tennis team travelling to matches in a hearse and being made to wear pink (not flesh pink) tights under their tennis skirts to retain their dignity. We still have the tights! An era has ended indeed.

**Mary Napper** (Cleveland 1935-1940). **Mary Adams** (Harvey, 1935-1943) passed on this information about her old school friend Mary Napper who died last year: 'Mary and I lived near each other and both attended Slough Secondary School and then the Girls' High School. Mary Napper lived in Slough with her husband for many years. She became President of the National Association of Flower Arranging Clubs, which remained a lifelong interest. The family retired to Wells to live within the cathedral precincts'. *Our thanks to Mary Adams for passing on this sad news -Ed*

#### **\*\*1940s\*\***

**June Ginger** (Hunt, 1940-47) Thank you for the Old Paludians reunion invitation. I wish I could be there. Please give my best regards to any of my class who attend. (1940-47). I have been in touch with **Pauline (now Paula) Holtum** (1942-45) who lives in New Zealand.

**Fred Collins** (1941-46) Greetings from Vancouver Island, Canada! My plans to attend the 2010 AGM in March have hit a snag due to unexpected problems with associated travel arrangements. Needless to say, I am very disappointed at this turn of events. I will be travelling to England later this year with a group of Rotary Club members on a Rotary Friendship Exchange and may have the opportunity to visit Slough at some point during my stay. Since Mary, my wife for over 54 years, passed away last March, I have been trying to keep myself busy - not always successfully - with home renovations and the usual club activities. My family and many friends have been a tremendous source of help and support during this very difficult time. Fortunately, my health is holding up well and I still have my private pilot's licence, so am able to take my Cessna 180 flying whenever the weather is suitable. Please pass on my best wishes to all the Old Paludians at the AGM. *We were sorry to hear of Mary's passing - Ed*

**Gwen Gale** (Knight, 1941-47) Greetings to all Old Paludians especially the 1941 girls. I keep in touch with quite a few and also **June Ginger** (Hunt, 1940-47) in California and **Vera Ormond** (Steptoe, 1942-48) in Australia. We will all have a special birthday over the course of this year! *Our congratulations and best wishes to all of you-Ed*

**Walter Gutteridge** (1943-48) I have read the background to the Association on the website's home page and have now joined as a Life Member. My interest has been re-awakened after having been passed a Newsletter which mentioned the photos on a Wiki site. I found myself on the 1946 School site and can name some of the boys. Should have joined years ago! My only claim to fame was winning the Swimming Cup.

**Margaret Paine** (Paine, 1943-49) Last year was uneventful apart from a hectic weekend which included visits to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales! This year my brother **Gerald Paine** (1951-55?) will reach his 70<sup>th</sup> year. He is retired, lives in Iver and has a granddaughter who attends the school. I have recently made contact with **Brenda Rankin** (Joiner 1946-48?) through her cousin **Shirley Paintin**. Brenda was a teacher and now lives in Bedford. Some of our group will be unable to come to the reunion this year so we wish them good health and will be thinking of them (perhaps there will even be a toast in orange juice!)

**Annette Chant** (Pountain, 1944-48) I hope reunion provides a happy time for all. Thank you to all the Committee who keep the Association on the road! (now aged 80!).

**Eunice Coombley** (Hernaman, 1944-49) Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this year as I will be away on holiday. However, I will be thinking of you and hoping you all enjoy a pleasant day. I am looking forward to receiving the annual newsletter to learn news of former classmates, though sadly not so many of my era these days.

**Linda Martin** (1944-49) - formerly of Bryant Avenue, Slough and now possibly living in the Chalfont St Peter/St Giles area - a childhood friend of Linda by the name of Wendy Mullett (nee Stacey) wishes to get in touch. If anyone can help, please contact a Committee member.

**Muriel Aird** (Bubb, 1946-53) Unfortunately, I shall not be at the Reunion this year as the journey becomes more of a problem. However, I hope to attend the Garden Party in July. The weather should be better by then & the evenings are lighter for longer which makes travelling a lot easier. I recently received a phone call from **Julia Wilson** (Ewens, 1948-52) She and her husband will be down here in Dorset, in May, so we have planned to get together for a meal and lovely long chat. Also, for the last two years another classmate, **Paula Atherton** (Doreen Jones, 1946-53) and her husband have visited the area and we have enjoyed a lunch and a lot of reminiscing. We hope we can do this again this year. I will miss the Reunion very much but will look forward to the Garden Party hoping that the weather is kind and that lots of people attend. It is a lovely idea and an excellent way of giving Mrs Lenton a good send off and wishing her well in the future.

**Ann V. Sellar** (Woodrow, 1946-1954) and **Julie Yahel** (Neal, 1945-1954) sent apologies for their absence from last year's reunion but are hoping to attend this time.

**Anne Stephens** (1946-53) Unfortunately I am unable to attend the Reunion this year we shall be in the South of France looking after a house for some friends. However I wish you all a very enjoyable day and hope the sun shines!

**Peter Tyler** (1946 - 1951) I am still fiddling the bass and blowing the tuba with several groups in the area. I am now married to a great grandma which concerns me, but Lewis is a very welcome addition to our family. I wonder how different his school life will be compared with mine!

**Barry J Garner** (1947-55) in Australia sends best wishes for a successful reunion and hopes that one day he'll be able to be there in person. I retired in 2000 after 24 years as Professor of Geography at the University of New South Wales. Although slowing down somewhat, still going strong!

**Derek Pomfret** (1947-52) Now retired and living in Henderson, Nevada, a suburb of Las Vegas.

**Maureen Berry** (Thompson, 1948-53) Thank you for all the information regarding the forthcoming reunion. However I will not be able to attend as I shall be in Canada visiting my daughter and her family. I wish you every success with this event and do appreciate all the hard work that goes into producing this event.

**Roy Smith** (1948 - 1953) Thanks for the invitation to the Reunion. I regret I am unable to attend this year. Thanks for all your hard work in keeping this event going. I would like to send my good wishes to all who remember me from the dim and distant past.



**Tony Bradbury** (1949-54) is sorry that he is unable but he has a previous commitment.

**Peter Burgess** (1949 -54) Some twelve years ago Peter Rolfe, Chris Martin met up with Peter Burgess and decided to try and locate as many of our old Upper Fifth classmates (UVB). With the help of dear Valerie Storie we have managed to locate:- John Alder (Spain), John Bamborough, Ernie Bevan (who still holds the shotput record), Joe Blott(Jersey), Tony Bradbury, Terry Clegg, Rod Cooper, Dennis Daly, Dennis Delaney, Brian Dilnot, Brian Duckett, Alan Forbes, Ramon Gilder, Mike Gillham, Bob Greenfield, Nick Hammans, Fred Harpley, John Hughes, Len Jackson (Chicago), Trevor Jones, John Knowles, Rod Laing, Kevin Melia, Cecil Newby, Jeff Parker (California), Brian Parsons, Tony Patmore, Brian Pither, John Rees, Jack Rixon, Mick Vockins, Pete Ward and Richard York. Disability problems prevent me attending anymore SGS reunions, but about ten of us meet twice a year at Chipping Norton for mini-reunions. We are still looking for: Gordon Hamilton, Peter Ashley, Pete Jupp, Stan Balls, John Hinds, John Dilly, Brian Billington. If anyone can help please contact me through Valerie Storie (membership secretary).

**Eileen Pearce** (Kitch, 1949-54) sends her apologies and regards to all.

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Ellen Ranscombe** (Parkes, 1946-1952) Ellen died in February 2010 after a very long illness. I am sure she will be remembered by many people of our year. *Our thanks to Paula (Doreen) Atherton, (Jones, 1946-53) for passing on this sad news -Ed*

### **\*\*1950s\*\***

**Val Parkes** (Ford, 1950-56) Unfortunately, I will not be able to make the reunion this year but would like to send my thanks to the people who responded to my request for information re- the whereabouts of some of my SHS friends. I simply cannot believe that it is 60 years since I took my first tentative steps into Twinches Lane and Form 1S in the capable hands of Miss Saunderson !! There followed six very happy years and lots of great memories. Last summer I spent five weeks in Vancouver with my sister and brother in law **Sue and Bob Gedge** (SHS and SGS respectively). They will be in the UK in the autumn and friends can contact them via me. Very best wishes for a happy and successful day and many thanks to all of you for all you do to keep the Old Pals such a successful organisation.

**Jean Tyler** (Ireland, 1950-56) I send special greetings to the Old Girls who like me started at Slough High School sixty years ago. I am keeping busy as a member of the Slough, Windsor and Maidenhead Club of Soroptimist International, and through the club do voluntary work with the Slough Child Contact Centre and the Slough Talking Newspaper. I retired from the High Wycombe Bench in May 2009.

**Ann Reed** (Howell, 1951-56) I don't think I shall make it to the reunion this year, but hope others from our year will attend. I hope 2010 will be a successful one for the Old Pals and the school and wish you all a Happy New Year.

**Carolyn Mason** (King, 1952-58) I am now on the Isle of Wight and unable to attend this year as I have yet to recover from hip replacement surgery last October followed by thrombosis in both legs. Catch 22 situation - unable to progress the hip because of the legs/feet and *vice versa*. Very fed up being tied to the house and unable to drive (and missing a number of poetry events), but hope to make it to Slough in 2011. I do hope the day will be a very happy one!

**Shirley Lane** (Hope 1952-58) I thoroughly enjoyed my time at SHS where I was good friends with **Joan Wells** (Snapes, 1952-57). We meet up occasionally and still get on really well. I have a husband and 2 daughters - one in Cornwall and the other is a florist in Windsor. I love line dancing, Tai chi and fundraising. We have lovely holidays now we have retired, and enjoy walking.

**Eric Hill** (1953-60) graduated with a Science degree from Leeds University, where he had been a prizewinning soloist in the Inter University jazz competitions. On hearing Julian Bream at a Wigmore Hall concert, Eric resolved to concentrate on the classical guitar and to devote himself full time to the instrument, after sensibly finishing his graduate studies! Eric has presented recitals all over the world, has recorded several highly acclaimed albums of classical repertoire. Having achieved what he set out to do in music, and after 25 years as a professional guitarist, Eric returned to his other interest, Science. He re-entered education as a Physics teacher, a great contrast between the relative isolation of the virtuoso guitarist and the highly interactive teamwork of school life. After 12 happy years and having survived a serious illness, Eric took early retirement and returned to guitar playing and teaching. In this "born again" state Eric now concentrates on fusing classical guitar techniques with jazz improvisation on the solo nylon strung guitar. He is a guitar tutor at Bedford School, directs the North Bucks Guitar Ensemble, and plays in duos. He is a member of the De Parys Trio.

**Nicholas Taylor** (1954-61) and **Pat Taylor** (Buckland, 1956-62) Thank you for your invitation to this event. Unfortunately, I shall be on my way home from a trip to Antarctica so will be unable to attend. I hope you have an enjoyable day.

**Ruth Sheppard** (Clark, 1955-62) I am hoping to attend this year to meet up with old friends from my year. I continue to be heavily involved with my grandson who regularly stays with us. I gave a song recital of English music for St Cecilia's Day and continue to entertain in Nursing and Care Homes with the Old Tyme Music Group. I am looking forward to the reunion in March.

**David Garrod** (1956-63) Regrettably, I will not be able to attend due to an earlier engagement. I hope it is a good day and that one day in the future that I will be able to come. I retire on April 26th this year from the School of Management, Royal Holloway College, University of London.

**Derek Ray** (1956-63) A wise woman once said that a newly-retired man needs a passion, or, in 6 months, he falls off his perch. My retirement passion is painting. I'm not much good but it has certainly taken me over. I never showed any inclination towards art at school, beyond doodling. I am unable to attend the reunion this year. Have a good one!

**Howard Smith** (1956-64) Just to let you know that I will not be able to attend this year but hope to get together somewhere in the south with a small group of former pupils of SGS, as we have done for many years now. Bob Moss has been the prime mover in organising this in the past.

**Ged Bull** (1955-63) I am sorry that I cannot attend the reunion this year. Best wishes.

**Lynne Willis** (Linda Partleton, 1956-58) I am sorry not to be able to attend the reunion, I always enjoy them, but my husband and I will be in New Zealand. Please send my regards to everyone.

**Bob Moss** (1956-64) Once again a mini-reunion of the SGS 1956 intake took place at the end of June 2009, generously hosted by **Roger Fountain** in Marlow and attended by **Brian Harden**, **Tony Mayo**, **Bob Moss**, **Howard Smith**, **Rob Hannigan** and **Peter Virgo** (all 1956-63) plus WAGs. This year's event will be in July in Henley and we hope to see a few more familiar faces this time around (including, maybe, the editor and her husband). *Anything is possible!-Ed*

**Diana Davis** (King, 1957-62) I regret I am unable to attend the reunion this year as, sadly, my husband died earlier this year after 42 wonderful years of marriage. There was some good news, though, with the arrival of our second granddaughter in 2009. *We are very sorry to hear about your husband-but it is true that good news follows bad, so congratulations on the birth of your granddaughter-Ed*

**Christine Herman** (1957-1962) I'm very sorry I won't be able to make the reunion and wish the organisers much success.

**Roger Columbine** (1958-65) Please record my apologies for the above meeting as, yet again, it unfortunately clashes with a prior engagement. Hopefully I will get to another reunion at some stage.

**Carol Mansfield** (1958-65) I will not be coming to Reunion in March, this year, but hope to come next year. I moved to Spain September 2005 for a hectic job in Gibraltar, from which I retired in September 2008. Since then, with dogs and friends life has been equally full and I amazingly met a lovely British man, after retirement, whom I married in December 2009 in our local village church in Sabinillas close to where we live - a first marriage for both of us, which at 63 and 65 is unusual, to say the least! Chris is a Geordie but has lived in Spain for over 40 years. We are very happy. *Congratulations to you both - it's never too late!* - Ed

**Tina Johnston** (Christine McDonald, 1959-61) Once again I would love to be able to accept the invitation to the reunion, but as in previous years, living in Australia is a slight obstacle! Who knows, maybe a future trip will coincide with a reunion date! I wish you all every success with the reunion and look forward to receiving my copy of the Newsletter in April.

**Anne Cartwright** (Hamblen, 1959-66) I am sorry but I shall not be able to attend the reunion this year. I hope that it all goes well.

### **\*\*IN MEMORIAM\*\***

**Alan Charles Parsons** (1954-1960) Alan died in February 2010 at the age of 68, after a long battle with cancer. In 1966 he married Pat Boulton (1953-1961). He qualified as a doctor in 1965 from Bristol University and went on to train as a consultant paediatrician. before deciding to emigrate to New Zealand, along with his wife, also a doctor, and their two daughters. He became head of department of paediatrics in New Plymouth where he remained for twenty-six years. He was totally dedicated to the care of children and their parents in Taranaki and achieved the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Gold Medal for Clinical Services in Rural and Remote Areas. He had a number of special interests which included medical genetics. He had a commitment to child injury prevention both locally and nationally and received the IPANZ Te Manaia Award in 2006, along with a New Plymouth Citizens Award which recognised his work with child cancer patients. New Plymouth through an accreditation process became the 95th Safer Community in the world due to Alan's leadership. Additionally over the last ten years, Alan had extended his care and dedication to the children of Vietnam, as Chairman of the Child Health Committee of the New Zealand Vietnam Health Trust. He travelled to Vietnam on eight occasions during his annual leave, doing voluntary work, teaching and advising about the development of paediatric services. His many interests included jazz, astronomy and travel to places as far afield as Lapland to Antarctica. He embraced the New Zealand lifestyle and enjoyed activities such as hiking, skiing, kayaking and even took up water skiing in his sixties. Above all, Alan was a devoted husband, father to his two daughters and Grandpa to his three grandchildren.

**Keith Rowe** (1957-1964) Peter Robson wrote: Keith will be sadly missed by those who knew him. They will remember a generous, kind and inspiring friend. He was someone who was never afraid to speak his own mind but who at the same time was courteous and sensitive to the feelings of others. He had a very clear sense of what was worthwhile in life. This could be seen in his commitment to his parents and brother as a boy and to his own wife and children later in life. It was also expressed in his life-long commitment to music, particularly Church music. The joy he derived from music, whether he was singing in a group or choir or playing in a band or orchestra inspired many others to leave the Dansette in the corner and get involved in music much more actively. This interest, developed at Slough Grammar in the choir, choral society and orchestra, lasted his whole life progressing into singing in the Wells Cathedral Voluntary Choir and the

Shepton Mallet Big Band. He was a one-off. An individualist and a perfectionist in his work, he set enviably high standards throughout his life taking his work seriously but never himself. He always played down his work in computers and spoke only about his real interests - family, music and sport. As a young man he was a deft hockey player both for the school and the Old Paludians. Mastering the ability to strike a ball with a stick led him to try golf. At the same time others were acquiring motorbikes. Keith was bitten by the bug too and combined the two passions. Being Keith, he bought a Lambretta scooter since he argued this would enable him to carry his clubs over his shoulder. Not his finest plan - try it some time. At leisure he was years ahead of his time in his passion for cycling. No casual meanders through the countryside on a 3-speed Raleigh for Keith, though. From the outset he was a Claude Butler 10 speed Derailleur gears man. Racing saddle, cycling shorts and 35 miles an afternoon was always his idea of cycling. His preferred reading matter was Cycling News and from another facet of his personality Motorcycle Mechanics. He leaves behind a wife, 5 children and 6 grandchildren, who, like all who knew him, will always smile when thinking of Keith. Raise a glass of *lumière et amère* to him when you're next in a pub - he'd like that. *Thank you Peter for this moving tribute-Ed*

#### **\*\*1960s\*\***

**Brenda Smith** (Dilley, 1962-69) I regret that it is not possible for me to attend the reunion this year but one of these years I will make it! I am still living in Hong Kong and working in China and South East Asia and would be pleased to hear from any other Old Paludians in this part of the world or any who are passing through. Wishing you a successful reunion.

#### **\*\*1970s\*\***

**Rosy Eade** (Roberts, 1978-82) Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the reunion this year, but would like to send all my good wishes for a successful day.

Anyone out there from the **\*\*1980s\*\*** or even the **\*\*1990s\*\***?

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#### **NON-MEMBERS**

*From time to time we hear news of the passing of non-members, which we include in the newsletters as there are bound to be members and friends who knew them:*

**Mervina Brodie** (Ridgway, 1954-58) Our thanks to Tony Rowe for passing on this sad news.

Our thoughts go to all those mentioned in our 'In Memoriam' lists and they will be sincerely remembered at our annual reunion.

We also hear other news of non-members:

**Victoria Moore** (1994-2001) Last year ex-pupil Victoria achieved her ambition to swim across The English Channel as a charity event! This was indeed an outstanding feat and we offer our warmest (!) congratulations. Anyone interested in further information please follow this BBC News link: <http://www.justgiving.com/swimvic/>

Just one other ex-pupil has achieved this remarkable feat as far as we know - **Laurie Brokenshire** (1966-71) in a charity swim organised by the Royal Navy in 1986.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS

We warmly welcome all those who have become Life Members over the past year. Our website will keep you fully informed of news, dates of events etc. and for those of you within striking distance of Lascelles Road we hope to see you at our Reunions and other functions. On the other hand, don't let distance put you off, we regularly have members from USA and Europe as well as all over UK join us on Reunion Day. Letters giving news of the Reunions are sent out by post or email each January to all members and others who have shown interest or made contact during the previous year.

*If anyone has been omitted, our apologies and the omission will be rectified next time - Ed.*

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2009 - 2010

### 1940s

Walter Gutteridge	1943-48
Tony Bradbury	1949-54

### 1960s

Judy Carter	1962-69
Paul Hodgson	1963-70
Allison Marvin (Thompson)	1964-71
Roger Greenhalgh	1969-70

### 1950s

Stephen Hyde	1950-59
Gordon Oliver	1952-60
Eric Hill	1953-60
Geoff Dalton	1953-60
Brenda Burdall (Lewin)	1954-57
Vivienne Jones (Hardy)	1958-60
Anne Cartwright (Hamblen)	1959-66
Ann Shaw (Picton)	1959-56

### 1970s

Lorraine Holmes (West)	1978-83
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## MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Valerie Storie is the Membership Secretary and continues her excellent work maintaining the records in our database. New applications for membership should be addressed to her (see back page) as well as notification of any changes of address/email.

Details of members' names, addresses, years at school etc., are held in a computer database strictly in accordance with the rules governing Data Protection. Your attention is drawn to this fact. Such information is used solely for mailing and Old Paludians purposes and is not divulged to other organisations. Should you have any objection to this we can arrange for your name to be removed and any correspondence will be dealt with by hand. This is your right under the Data Protection Act and we will assume you have no such objection unless otherwise informed.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:** *a number of our members have included addresses etc asking for friends to make contact. We do encourage this and many friendships have been renewed. However we are bound by the Data Protection Act and all we ask you to do if you wish to make contact is to give me a quick phone call or drop me a line/email and I will let you have the address and/or phone details. Please don't be put off from making contact but we want you to be safe and enjoy your friendships without worry. My details are at the end of the Newsletter - or contact Valerie, the Membership Secretary. Perhaps next year we can have a few stories about your renewed contact and how those years just rolled away once you got talking.*

**OUR WEBSITE** Our website continues to be instantly available 24 hours a day wherever you are in the world. We have no doubt that it is possibly the largest, and best, dedicated school site of its kind in Britain and thanks are due to our excellent Webmasters, **Ian and Colin Cairns**. Why not have a look at <[www.oldpaludians.org](http://www.oldpaludians.org)>? As promised, we have now reloaded all our photographs and added some new ones - approx 418 in total and more to come! These will be found in the area marked "Wikispaces Photos". Within a short period, you too can be editing the names on these photos or just browsing them and this year has seen the arrival of many new 'Wiki' editors. If you feel you are able to help, please have a look at the new Wiki section, and see whether you can assist the identification of the people on the photographs - the backlog of names will be incorporated in due course.

**OUR WEBSITE CDROMs** We have for some years been producing a CDROM of our website, containing all the photos and all the names that we have, as at the production date. This has been helpful when most Old Paludians had slow dial-up connections to the Internet and wished to avoid downloading all our large school photos. However, the CDROM was fixed on its production date, and could only be replaced - not updated. Nowadays, many Old Paludians have fast broadband access to the Internet, and it is little trouble to download the latest photos/latest names straight from our website - so the CDROM has slightly less usefulness. Our new Wiki website has altered the format, and we continue to research the easiest way to incorporate this new format onto our CDROM. Unfortunately, we have still not yet completed our research. The result is that although we are always pleased to receive indications of interest, we are unable to fulfil any orders for CDROMs for the near future.



### **We've found:**

**NO\_ONE!** No 'findings' have been reported this year as far as we know, but ...

### **We've lost touch with:**

**George Ayres** (left 1960?) Non-member **Brian Johnston** would like to contact him regarding a reunion of RAF old Boys who joined Cranwell in 1960

**Eileen John** (years not known) **Betty Wess** (Cohen, 1941-46) asks if there's any news of Eileen. She doesn't know her married name, but she used to live somewhere in the Salt Hill area.

**Maureen Gray** (Oriol Hurley, 1946-51) **Shirley Heap** (Emby, 1946-51) would like to get in touch if possible. Can anyone help?

### **Can any one help?**

**Joyce May** (Wagstaff 1954-60) would like to know if there is a record of the trip to Holzhausen in July 1959. She went with Miss Gerber, Mr & Mrs Boul and David Boul.

Important date for your Diary...

*The Old Paludians Annual Reunion – 2011  
will be held on  
Saturday 19th March 2011*

*The format will be similar to this year. Invitation letters will be despatched by the end of January 2011.*

**The Old Paludians Committee: 2010 -2011**

**President**.....Margaret Lenton, Principal, Slough Grammar School (until July 2010)  
**Chairman**.....Jean Tyler: 1 Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, SL6 0DW.  
Tel: 01628 621560 email: chairman@oldpaludians.org  
**Minute Secretary**.....Valerie Kershaw: 64 Portland Crescent, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1NB.  
Tel: 020 8204 4858 email: kershaw@metronet.co.uk  
**Treasurer**.....Shelagh Whitehouse, Orchard End, Bentley Rd, Slough SL1 5BB.  
Tel: 01753 516502 email: treasurer@oldpaludians.org  
**Webmaster**.....Ian and Colin Cairns: c/o 6 The Cedars, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 6JW.  
Tel: 0118 945 1121 email: webmaster@oldpaludians.org  
**Membership & Records**....Valerie Storie: 15 Anthony Way, Cippenham, Slough, Berks, SL1 5PG.  
Tel: 01628 605411 email: memsec@oldpaludians.org  
**Editor - Newsletter**.....Shelagh Rothero: Trench Cottage, Dunhampstead, Droitwich, WR97JX.  
Tel: 01905 779116 email: editor@oldpaludians.org  
**Archivist**.....David Rogers: 31, Highway Ave, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 5AG  
Tel: 01628 639403  
**Committee email address:** committee@oldpaludians.org

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# *The Old Paludians Book*

## *~~~~~ School Ties ~~~~~*

### *Further recollections of the Old Paludians*

Published in 2005 to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Paludians.

Once again Old Paludians have drawn upon their memories - 180 pages of schooldays, perhaps in times of war or national strife, perhaps special personal occasions that stay forever in the mind. Maybe starting school as timid pupils or leaving school as confident young adults. Friendships that have passed every possible test of time and are still fresh today - places - hilarious memories - poignant memories. They are all here, recorded forever and giving an intriguing overview of school years against a background of the social life of Slough. It is a 'must have' for all members and will make a special present for families and friends. The order form is once again re-printed below. Copies have been read and passed along to family, friends and colleagues all over the world. Don't miss out - make sure you have your own copy!

If you would like to order a copy of 'School Ties' please complete the form below and return it to:  
Mrs Jean Tyler, 1, Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0DW

**Cheques made payable to 'The Old Paludians ' please.**



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### *School Ties - further recollections of the Old Paludians*

I wish to order ..... book(s) <b>SCHOOL TIES</b> which I will collect @ <b>£10 each</b>	£.....
I wish to order ..... book(s) to be sent by post @ <b>£11.50 each</b>	£.....
I wish to order .....book(s) to be sent overseas @ <b>£13.00 each</b>	£.....
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>£.....</b>

NAME (please print) .....

ADDRESS .....

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.....Post code .....